

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 NEAE-00 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 /094 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3979

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10276

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MU, IR

SUBJ: FIGHTING IN DHOFAR

REFS: (A) STATE 247479 (DTG 172122ZOCT75); (B) MUSCAT 1170
(DTG 181204ZOCT75); (C) TEHRAN USINFO 150915ZOCT75 NOTAL);
(D) TEHRAN 9961 (DTG 121221ZOCT75 NOTAL)

1. IRANIAN PRESS OCTOBER 20 HEADLINED STORY ON MAJOR
OFFENSIVE IN DHOFAR, REPORTING IRANIAN CAPTURE OF KEY REBEL
SUPPLY LINE IN COMBINED GROUND, NAVAL AND AIR OPERATION.
POSITION SEIZED REPORTED 9 KILOMETERS WEST OF RAKHYUT
COMMANDING APPROACHES BETWEEN THAT PORT AND FARFAT AND
SHARSHITI CAVES HELD BY REBELS. BY CUTTING APPROACHES
BETWEEN PORT AND CAVES, IRANIAN AND OMANI FORCES HAVE
NOW VIRTUALLY SURROUNDED REBELS, PRESS STATED. INFANTRY,
COVERED BY INTENSE ARTILLERY FIRE, ENGAGED IN MOPPING UP
OPERATIONS. THREE IRANIANS REPORTED KILLED AND THREE
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WOUNDED. "QUALIFIED OBSERVERS IN TEHRAN EXPRESSED

PLEASURE AT THE SUCCESSFUL OFFENSIVE AND SAID IT SPELLED BEGINNING OF THE END FOR COMMUNIST-BACKED INSURGENCY IN DHOFAR," KAYHAN COMMENTED.

2. ACCORDING TO IRANIAN MILITARY SOURCES, AT LEAST EIGHT, POSSIBLY TEN, F-4 AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATED IN COMBAT AIR PATROL (CAP) FOR DESTROYERS AND VOSPERS WHICH WERE PROVIDING NAVAL GUN SUPPORT IN OFFENSIVE. AIRCRAFT WERE REFUELED BY TANKERS FOUR TIMES AS THEY FLEW CAP FOR 5-1/2 HOURS. TWO, POSSIBLY FOUR, KC-707 TANKERS HAVE BEEN FLOWN DURING OPERATIONS. THOSE AIRCRAFT AND F-4S STAGED OUT OF BANDAR ABBAS FOR OPERATION. BARB AND POSSIBLY PALANG (DDS) AND ONE OR MORE VOSPERS WERE USED IN SHORE BOMBARDMENT. HELICOPTERS WERE EMPLOYED FOR TARGETING. REPORTED 1150 ROUNDS OF FIVE INCH AMMUNITION WERE FIRED. ALTHOUGH PRESS HAS CARRIED NO FURTHER STORIES ON OFFENSIVE, HEIGHTENED ACTIVITY OF IRANIAN MILITARY SCS STAFF IN TEHRAN SUGGESTS THAT GROUND FIGHTING IS CONTINUING. AIRCRAFT, WE UNDERSTAND, HAVE RETURNED TO SHAHIROKHI AIR BASE.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION BY EITHER IRANIAN PRESS OR IRANIAN MILITARY SOURCES OF ANY FIGHTING BEYOND OMANI BORDER IN PDRY.

4. IT APPARENT THAT IRANIAN PRESS STORIES ON DHOFAR FIGHTING DURING PAST WEEK (REFS C AND D) WERE DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE PUBLIC FOR CURRENT OFFENSIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COUNTERINSURGENCY, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN10276
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750363-0555
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751039/aaaabiyf.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 247479, 75 MUSCAT 1170
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIGHTING IN DHOFAR
TAGS: PFOR, MU, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006